TO: Superintendant Jane Doe

FROM: Michael B.

DATE: June 7, 2016

RE: Policy Change to Bring Your Own Device

As you know, our school policy regarding student's technology devices (i.e. phones, tablets, etc.) is a strict "No devices in the classroom" policy. Given our small status as a school district, it is hard to keep up-to-date with all of the technological changes that happen day-to-day. A change in policy could help to advance our students' ability to use technology while allowing us as a school system to become less reliant on our spending to do so. As this is a growing trend in our state and local area, I propose a switch to the Bring Your Own Device policy in grades 6-12.

In this policy, the school will allow students to bring their own internet-ready devices in order to better implement learning and further prepare them for the future. Teachers would be encouraged to include these devices into the lessons while helping the students to learn the life skill that these devices are not just for social media and gaming but for learning as well. Teachers would still be in charge of the device use policies in their classroom, but it should be encouraged for teachers to change to the current trends in education.

In my interview with this school, it was made apparent that we hold ourselves very high in terms of students' college and career readiness. One major difference that students have to deal with in the transition from high school to college is the lack of supervision and rules regarding their electronic devices. Students have to learn on-the-go how to be self-disciplined in regards to their device use. If we implement this strategy in our school now we can help these students gain a foundation of self-discipline in academic settings that will follow with them into their future college work and careers.

There are plenty of issues to keep in mind when swapping over to this policy and to better help us understand these dilemmas I propose a pilot program where we implement these procedures for a month or unit of instruction towards the end of the school year. Prior to this time, at the beginning of the school year, I would suggest that we hold after school preparatory meetings with the teachers to discuss ways to implement new teaching strategies that incorporate students' technologies. After this pilot program, a formal decision could be made after seeing the results. Considering costs, there should be some devices provided by the school for students who do not have devices but the pilot program will help us to determine that specific cost. At your convenience, please contact me with your thoughts on this topic. I am available to continue the discussion on the merits of BYOD in our school system.

Michael Bobbitt